

PRESS RELEASE

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Clinton Senior Center Receives \$5,000 Grant from USDA Rural Development



Clinton, MA –The Clinton Senior Center received a visit from USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle and a check for \$5,000 in federal grant funds today. The USDA Community Facilities Grant will be used to purchase a new telephone system and furniture for the Senior Center.

Joining Mr. Tuttle and Clinton Senior Center Director, Kathi Bailey were Wendy Wiiks from Senator Robert Antonioni's office, and Mary Pat Gibbons representing Congressman McGovern.

"This grant is a huge win for the Clinton Senior Center," said Kathi Bailey, Director of the center. "Our Center is one of the lowest town funded departments and relies heavily on grant money and private donations. The town, like our country was built by hardworking people. They worked in the mills that have mostly disappeared. Some were managers or owners but most were part of the working class. These people are now our Senior citizens and most are living on fixed incomes and making hard choices between heat, food and medications on a daily basis. Senior Centers are the common area for our elders to gather emotional support and critical information about resources and services available to them. I am very thankful that the USDA rural development team has helped the Clinton Senior Center with this grant and I look forward to continued support as we build a new center for the Clinton's senior population."

The Senior Center seeks to purchase or build its own property as it currently rents a facility owned by the Perkins School on High Street where space is limited and parking is difficult. When the center moves, the new furniture and phone system will go with them.

"I'm very pleased that the USDA has awarded this funding to the Clinton Senior Center," Representative McGovern said in a statement. "I'm particularly grateful to David Tuttle and Kathi Bailey for all of their hard work on behalf of our seniors. I have visited the Senior Center numerous times, and I know what a wonderful resource it is to the Clinton community. I'm especially pleased that these federal funds will be used to update the Center's telephone system."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over \$58.5 million in assistance to Massachusetts' rural communities and families.

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